



CONTAINER OWNERS ASSOCIATION

COA Members Newsletter: Issue 34 – January 2008

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1. Focus on Environment at 6th COA Members Meeting in Shanghai

Containers and the Environment will be the principal theme of the COA’s 6th Members Meeting, taking place in Shanghai on Monday 16 June 2008.

There will be presentations, panel discussions and break-out sessions on a number of issues relating to the environmental challenges of container shipping, container ports, container operations and container manufacturing.

The first of two sessions focusing on the environment will look at the broader issues affecting the container shipping, ports and logistics industry: Making container shipping more eco-friendly, reducing ships’ emissions, the impact of new container terminals and reducing the environmental impact of container handling operations, dredging, hinterland links and logistics.

The second session will review progress in the development of “environmentally-friendly” containers, including

- Container paints: reducing solvent emissions
- Flooring: finding alternatives to tropical hardwoods
- Refrigeration machinery and reefer containers: reducing the environmental impact
- Disposal of old containers: disposal of flooring, reefer insulation, etc

Nigel Stribley, Director of Blue Sky Intermodal (n.stribley@bsiu.com), who has been involved in the preparation of the COA’s Alternative Flooring report for the past three years, has agreed to assist the COA Secretariat in the development of the conference’s environmental programme.

In addition to the sessions on the environment, the 6th COA Members Meeting will also include:

- Reports on Working Group progress and Regional Branch developments
- The 2008 AGM, including the Election of COA officers
- An open discussion forum for members to discuss COA developments

The Provisional Programme is on the COA Website (www.containerownersassociation.org)

2. COA/ITCO Container Pavilion at Transport Logistic China: 50% reserved

After the 6th Members Meeting, the COA and the International Tank Container Organisation are jointly organising a Container Pavilion at *transport logistic China 2008*, taking place in Shanghai, 17-19 June 2008. *transport logistic China 2008* (www.transportlogistic-china.com) is one of the world’s largest exhibitions for the container shipping and logistics industry.

Members of the COA and of ITCO are invited to participate in the Container Pavilion - either by reserving individual exhibition booths, or by being one of the sponsors of the sponsored stand.

A range of comprehensive packages are available, including fully equipped and furnished exhibition stands (sized 4m x 3m and above), together with a number of other marketing and promotional opportunities.

Some 50% of the Pavilion has now been sold. Further information about the Container Pavilion, including stand packages and the floorplan, can be found on the COA Website. (www.containerownersassociation.org)

3. COA 2008 Technical Programme

As reported in the Dec 2007 newsletter, Erik Hansen (technical@containerownersassociation.org) has been appointed at the COA's Technical Manager. With Erik's appointment of the Technical Manager, work is now under way to strengthen and expand the COA's Technical Programme.

- Repair Working Group

Following requests from a number of shipping lines and leasing companies, the COA is taking the initiative to create a standard set of COA-recommended container interchange inspection criteria.

A document is being prepared by the COA Technical Manager, comparing the four inspection criteria presently in use in the industry (UCIRC, SeaWorthy, "IICL-Light" and IICL-5). The document will compare the key differences between these four criteria – and recommend a standard set of criteria for reviewed by a COA Working Group, comprising interested parties.

- Environmental Working Group

Following the Shanghai Members Meeting, it is proposed to establish a COA Environmental Working Group, with the aim of developing a COA strategy for the development of environmentally-friendly containers.

This WG will co-operate and co-ordinate with the on-going research work on *Alternative Container Flooring Systems* that has been undertaken by the **Flooring Working Group**.

In addition, the Environmental WG will also investigate issues relating to other aspects of container design, production and operation, including container coatings and reefer containers.

- Standard Container WG/Development of a standard door locking gear installation

Within the Standard Container Working Group, the creation of a COA-recommended standard door locking installation will be investigated. One problem faced by many container owners is the non-standard installation of door locking gear. In many cases, the positioning of the top and bottom cams deviates by 5-10 mm, causing problems when the door gear is replaced or repaired.

A recommended common standard installation procedure for the door gear will be prepared.

- Flexitank Code of Practice

As part of its work on the development of a standard COA-recommended Flexitank Code of Practice, the first issue addressed by the Working Group is that of Container Selection. A Container Selection Check List has now been prepared by the WG. The check list was developed taking elements and best practice and identifies difference from the Unified Container Inspection and Repair Criteria (UCIRC) and the IICL General Guide for Container Cleaning.

The Checklist comprises a Standard Form, which can be used by all parties in the Flexitank Operation process; and will enable, for example, depots to check what type of containers they should supply for flexitank operations.

Following the publication of the Checklist, Phase 2 of the Flexitank WG's work will commence early in 2008. This work will focus on testing the flexitank/container combination and the development of a standard set of tests.

The 3rd Phase will focus on the operation and safe handling of flexitanks. This work will take place in the 2nd half of 2008.

Further information on the Flexitank WG from ets.consulting@btinternet.com

4. Container shipping industry launches public awareness drive

The container shipping industry has launched a public awareness drive with the formation of “The Container Shipping Information Service”. Formed by 24 of the world’s leading container shipping companies, its aim is to “increase public understanding and appreciation worldwide of the benefits and impact that this hitherto relatively unknown industry has on daily life”.

For a long time the container shipping industry has remained publicly silent about its role. Yet newly commissioned research (carried out by GMI in November 2007 contacting 821 opinion formers in the US, China and Germany) has found that the single most important step that the industry could take to improve its image is to promote itself more successfully.

Through the Container Shipping Information Service, the industry aims to do that by showing how what it does is vital to the lives that people enjoy living in the modern world.

The container shipping industry also plans to openly address some common areas of concern and talk about its role in addressing them – in particular, the environment, globalisation and security.

A public website has been launched - www.shipsandboxes.com, designed to appeal to a broad audience, featuring a ‘Did You Know’ section and a ‘Jargon Buster’. An ongoing media relations campaign is also underway to spread the message wider.

The following container shipping companies comprise CSIS: Atlantic Container Line AB, China Shipping (Group) Company, CMA-CGM Group, COSCO, Crowley Maritime Corporation, CSAV (Compañía Sud-Americana de Vapores S.A.), Evergreen Marine Corp, Hamburg Südamerikanische Dampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft KG, Hanjin Shipping Co. Ltd., Hapag-Lloyd AG, Hyundai Merchant Marine Co., Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Maersk Line, Malaysia International Shipping Corporation (MISC), Mediterranean Shipping Co. S.A. (MSC), Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Neptune Orient Lines Ltd/APL, Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK), Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd (OOCL), Pacific International Lines (Pte) Ltd, United Arab Shipping Co (SAG), Wan Hai Lines Ltd, Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp., Zim Integrated Shipping Service Ltd.

5. “The Box” paperback edition – discount for COA Members

“The Box – A History of the Shipping Container” was published in 2006 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Containerisation. A paperback version of the book has now been published. Further information together with reviews and quotes about the book can be found on <http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8131.html>

The standard price for the book is £8.95, but COA Members can benefit from a special COA rate of £6.50 plus postage (cost dependent on destination). To order, phone +44 (0)1243 842165, quoting “The Box Offer”

6. Further Information

For further information about anything in this newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to the next issue (February 2008), contact Patrick Hicks – secretary@containerownersassociation.org